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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, life of our life, You have given us this Nation for our heritage. Today, we ask that You will keep us mindful of Your favor and glad to do Your will. Use the Members of this body to uphold the public interest, to labor for justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. Give them the wisdom to use their power for the healing of our land. Keep their goals high, vision clear, and minds keen.

And, Lord, we ask Your choicest blessings upon our departing page class.

We pray in Your righteous name.
Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Economic Development Act. There are currently five amendments pending to the bill. We are working to set up votes in relation to these amendments and will advise Senators when they are scheduled.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REVITALIZATION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Economic Development Revitalization Act is an important bill. Is it the most important bill we have ever done? The answer is, of course not. But it is an important piece of legislation. It is a very important bill.

What are the central points of this legislation? For almost 50 years, the Economic Development Administration has helped create jobs and growth in economically hard-hit communities across the Nation. Reauthorization of this important legislation will help ensure that the agency is able to help continue creating jobs and investing in distressed communities.

Since 2005, EDA has invested about \$1.2 billion, and these grants have created more than 300,000 jobs—precisely, 314,000 jobs. For every dollar that is in-

vested in EDA, we get \$7 worth of private investment. That is why the jobs are created. This legislation makes it better.

This is a bipartisan bill. Senators BOXER and INHOFE and their committee have worked to get this to the Senate floor. It increases flexibility for grantees, lowers the threshold requirements for grantees to receive an increased Federal share, and makes more investments available for planning assistance.

We are trying to move through this legislation. Senator SNOWE offered an amendment. She has not uttered a single word about that amendment, which was offered yesterday. This is the same piece of legislation that held up our Small Business Innovation Act. We have had other Senators who have come and offered amendments. I don't particularly like the amendment offered by the junior Senator from South Carolina, but he came and said, "I want to offer this amendment, and I will agree to a time limit on it." Senator PAUL, the junior Senator from Kentucky, had an amendment he wanted to offer. He said he would agree to a short time limit. I didn't ask for time agreements on this legislation. I should not act as the person who determines what amendments are offered and aren't offered. But when someone offers an amendment, we should be able to work it to a conclusion.

This bill, as I have indicated, is an important piece of legislation. We need to move through it. We are going to do that to the best of our ability. We will have a number of votes today and do our best to move through this piece of legislation so we can move to other bills. There are a lot of things we can do. We can work on bipartisan pieces of legislation. That is my hope today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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